

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – November 1, 2019

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

Bargaining – Not much happened for OECTA this week at the table, however, Strike Vote Rallies were occurring throughout the Province, keeping members of the Bargaining team and Executive very busy.

ETFO held a Strike Vote this week to help bolster their efforts when facing off against the government. They announced the results this morning and a resounding 98% voted in support of their team. This will send a clear message to the government that they need to start doing something more constructive at the table because teachers are not going to take what they are shovelling.

Strike Vote Rally – The emails have been flowing to you this week regarding November 6 at Roy Thompson Hall. This meeting is intended to provide you with the information needed to understand why OECTA needs us to vote in favour of possible job action. As ETFO members have done, we need to send a clear message to the government that they are not going to be allowed to destroy the education system we have worked so hard to build.

An email was sent out from OECTA, today, Friday, to your personal emails with information about the Strike Vote itself. Please check that for dates on which various steps will occur as we move toward November 12 and 13.

Human Rights – The debate over the inclusion of Human Rights Code language in the TCDSB Code of Conduct continued this week at the ‘Catholic Education and Living our Catholic Values Sub-Committee’ meeting. (Or the CELCVSC for those who like acronyms.) A motion passed to bring to the full Board a statement which referred to “all” rather than any individual groups as exists in the Code. While Gender is the most noted topic, it should be kept in mind that protection for members of the TCDSB under family status and marital status is also being excluded. Much is appearing in the media surrounding this issue, which does not shine the most flattering light on Catholic Education, unfortunately.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2019/10/31/toronto-catholic-school-board-will-not-include-protection-for-discrimination-based-on-gender-identity-gender-expression.html>

Health and Safety – Monday night and Tuesday, OECTA held the annual GTA Regional H&S Workshop. WSIB procedures, Domestic Violence, Violence in the classroom were among the topics addressed. In addition, there was much discussion around the implementation of an Online Reporting Tool, something many other Boards have in place but that ours has resisted. For any concerns you have regarding H&S please check the list on the OECTA board to see who your local DWM is and raise them with her/him.

Miscellanea – Normal operations continued apace for the release officers this week. Arbitration, return to work meetings, as well as Joint Safe Schools Committee and OT issues meetings with the Board occurred. And of course, there was the non-normal operation of working with TECT on the organizing of the Rally.

Stay warm and have a great weekend.

